

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), Member of the Armed Services Committee and a former three-star Admiral, today voted in of the Emergency Supplemental Funding Bill to provide funding for American soldiers and marines through September.

Following is Congressman Sestak's statement on the legislation:

I served this nation in combat, in Afghanistan and then Iraq. The first was a just war, the second, a tragic misadventure.

I have never deviated from what I said when I began running for this office after 31 years of military service – that a date certain to redeploy from Iraq is the only viable strategy that will change the incentives for Iraqis, and Iran and Syria, to change their behavior and work for stability and an unfailed Iraqi state.

But I've run the Navy's \$67 billion annual warfare program, and I know that money is only so fungible....and we will run out of funding this summer for our service members in Iraq.

I also know that there is a greater good than me, this office, our caucus, and our Congress: those who still wear the cloth of our nation and that we, America, sent to Iraq to fight for us.

I cannot vote to have these service members' safety be caught between us and someone we hope will blink – for hope is not a strategy.

But I have great faith that serious, good Americans on both sides of the aisle will come together after this vote and work together for an end date of what can no longer be an open ended commitment in Iraq – not just for our service members' security, but for America's.

Congressman Sestak's first bill introduced in Congress, which mandated no funding for forces in Iraq after December 31st, 2007 was H.R. 960, the "Enhancing America's Security through Redeployment from Iraq Act." Congressman Sestak will continue to work for a date certain to redeploy from Iraq to enhance America's security. He has voted for a date certain in three bills:

- House Resolution 1591 on April 25th, the first version of the FY 2007 Emergency Supplemental Bill that was vetoed by the president;
- House Resolution 2206 on May 10th and
- House Resolution 2237 on May 10th.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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